

August 28, 2020

Disaster Food Assistance Announced for Linn County Residents

(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Presidential Disaster Declaration issued for Linn County allows the Department of Human Services (DHS) to offer Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) for residents who were impacted by the derecho and subsequent power outages due to the August 10th storm. Those who are eligible to receive D-SNAP benefits will receive food dollars on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card that is equivalent to the maximum allotment of Food Assistance benefits for their household size.

Households who already receive Food Assistance/SNAP benefits in August or September 2020 are not eligible for D-SNAP because maximum allotments were already issued for those households due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. D-SNAP eligibility differs from Food Assistance, so households should review the eligibility criteria for application:

You are eligible if you have suffered one or more of the following disaster-related expenses:

- Destroyed or spoiled food
- Lost or no access to income due to the disaster, including reduced, terminated or delayed receipt of income
- Home or business repairs
- Temporary shelter expenses
- Evacuation or relocation expenses
- Home or business protection
- Disaster-related personal injury

Due to COVID-19 precautions, DHS workers will complete applications onsite during the interview with applicants. To review the application prior to applying onsite for D-SNAP, persons can view on the DHS [website](#). In order to expedite the distribution process, DHS has set up three accessible sites where applications will be processed and cards distributed. Sites will operate from August 31 to September 6, 2020. Applicants must apply in person during those seven days, or they will not be able to receive D-SNAP benefits. Site operating hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sites will reserve the first hour of operation to process applications for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Application processing will end at 7 p.m. Applicants who are still on site at that time will be given priority the next day. Applicants should not arrive at the distributions sites before 8 a.m. Site locations are listed below.

Cedar Rapids

- **Ladd Library:** 3750 Williams Boulevard SW
 - D-SNAP operations will be held outside in the parking lot.
- **U.S. Cellular Center:** 370 First Avenue NE

Marion

- **Marion Square Shopping Center:** 1107 Seventh Avenue

To keep wait times to a minimum, DHS is asking applicants to apply at the site of their choosing, but to follow the schedule below based on the first letter of last names. However, persons may apply at any time during the D-SNAP application period.

Date	Alphabetic breakdown
August 31, 2020	A – D
September 1, 2020	E – I
September 2, 2020	J – O
September 3, 2020	P – S
September 4, 2020	T - Z
September 5, 2020	OPEN
September 6, 2020	OPEN

Applicants will be asked to provide information about their household, the money coming into the home during the 30-day disaster period, and out-of-pocket expenses paid as the result of the August 10 storm. Applicants need to provide proof of identification and are encouraged to bring something showing their address in Linn County. Each site will have access to Language Line, which can provide tele-translation services for applicants. All applications will be provided in Creole, English, French, Kirundi, Spanish, and Swahili.

D-SNAP benefits can be used for food purchases at any SNAP-authorized retailer, including farmers markets and certain online retailers. For a complete list of authorized retailers, please see the [USDA SNAP retailer locator](#).

For more information about the program, including where D-SNAP benefits can be used, please visit our [website](#) or view the [program flyer](#).

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